

Testimony Concerning:

HB 5344 AN ACT CONCERNING SUPPORT FOR ANIMALS THAT ARE NEGLECTED
OR TREATED CRUELLY

Judiciary Committee, February 24, 2016

MaryAnn Stratton

I would like to thank the Judiciary Committee for the opportunity to express my support of HB 5344 AN ACT CONCERNING SUPPORT FOR ANIMALS THAT ARE NEGLECTED OR TREATED CRUELLY.

I care about animals and hope that you will support this bill so that animals in Connecticut can be protected and advocated for. We are the only voice they have and it is my hope that Connecticut can show the nation that we continue to advocate and remain progressive in the plight of humane and compassionate treatment of animals.

I have worked many years as a volunteer for rescue groups for both dogs and cats located in Connecticut, Massachusetts and New Hampshire. I have seen firsthand the abuse and suffering that is inflicted upon helpless animals due to human cruelty and I have rehabilitated and adopted a dog that was confiscated from a cruelty case, her name is Suki. Suki lived chained to a dog house for the first six years of her life, was bred over and over and suffered unspeakable acts of cruelty before she and eighteen other dogs were confiscated by local authorities and taken in from a rescue group. I never will know the full extent of the abuse she suffered but I can tell you what I have observed as Suki's caretaker for the last seven years. She will not eat or drink in front of me nor will she look me in the eye. If a stranger tries to show her any attention, she will look away and freeze, she is terrified of anything that is not in her routine, it could be a broom that has been moved to a different place in the kitchen or a pair of shoes left in an unfamiliar area. She will not come to me if I call her, she will only come inside on her own terms, and if I approach her she runs away from me. She has been so traumatized by her previous life of abuse that she seeks comfort in only things she finds familiar like her crate and dog bed. It sounds pitiful I know but the best part of Suki's life is when I let her outside in her own yard and I get to see how happy she looks while she runs around outside with her pack. That is the only place she truly knows how to be free and a how to be a dog again. I can provide many more examples of the terrible atrocities that are inflicted on the animals I have tended to over the years but I know that is not necessary as all of you read the papers and listen to the news each day so there is no need to preach to the choir.

Here before you is a bill that supports Desmond, a dog that suffered horribly at the hands of a terrible, terrible human being who got off very easy compared to what he did to this helpless

animal before he finally killed him. Please have a heart and do your part to help put an end to these stories. Support this bill and take a stand for the voiceless animals that depend on us, the good guys to keep them safe from harm.

Thank you for giving me an opportunity to testify and I do hope you will strongly support this important piece of legislation.

MaryAnn Stratton

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